

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION AND SURVEY OF SUNDRY RIVERS
WITH A VIEW TO THE CONTROL OF THEIR FLOODS

FEBRUARY 4, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
state of the Union and ordered to be printed

MR. HUMPHREYS, from the Committee on Flood Control, submitted
the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 11737]

The Committee on Flood Control, to which was referred H. R. 11737, authorizing preliminary examination and survey of the Skykomish River, Snoqualmie River, Snohomish River, and Stillaguamish River, all in Snohomish County, State of Washington, with a view to the control of their flood waters, after public hearing on and full consideration of said bill, hereby make report of it to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

In line 4 strike out the words "and surveys."

In line 12 strike out the period after the word "Washington" and insert the following: "and the Nooksack River in Whatcom County, State of Washington." And add another section as follows:

SEC. 2. That the sum of \$2,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be and is hereby authorized to be appropriated to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War and the supervision of the Chief of Engineers to carry out the objects and purposes of this act.

Hearing on this bill disclosed the following:

(1) That all the rivers named therein except the Nooksack River are in the County of Snohomish, in the State of Washington, and that the Nooksack River is in Whatcom County in said State.

(2) That the land through which these rivers flow is very fertile and would, if protected from flood, be highly productive of oats, hay, grazing, and corn to the point of its use for silage. Potatoes are also grown abundantly there and the dairy industry is very extensive in all these counties and along all the rivers herein mentioned.

All the rivers mentioned are mountain streams that rise to flood height and overflow the surrounding country rapidly, and the de-

structive effect from these floods is terrific. The floods usually occur annually, though most of the very destructive floods occur at least every two or three years.

It is necessary that a preliminary survey be made by the Army engineers to ascertain whether some action may be taken by the Government to obviate a recurrence of this condition.

An extract from a letter written by the Chief of Engineers of the United States Army follows:

H. R. 11737 authorizes preliminary examinations and surveys of certain rivers in Snohomish County, State of Washington, in accordance with the provisions of section 3 of "An act to provide for the control of the floods of the Mississippi River, and the Sacramento River, Calif., and for other purposes," approved March 1, 1917. In view of the fact that this act provides that "all reports on preliminary examinations hereafter authorized, together with the report of the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors thereon, and separate report of the representative of any other department, shall be submitted to the Secretary of War by the Chief of Engineers, that his recommendation shall be transmitted by the Secretary of War to the House of Representatives, and are hereby ordered to be printed when so made," it is believed that it would be in accordance with the intention of the 1917 act and the custom of Congress in such matters to authorize a preliminary examination only, leaving the question as to the advisability of a survey to be decided by Congress. The bill has been amended in red in this manner, and as so amended no objection can be seen to the passage of the bill should Congress so desire.

The letter thus quoted from has no reference to the Nooksack River, but the bill was amended in the committee to include it because an identical situation was found to exist along its banks.



The Commission Flood Control, to which was referred H. R. 11737, authorizing preliminary examination and survey of the Snohomish River, Snohomish County, State of Washington, with a view to the control of flood waters, after giving hearing on and the consideration of said bill, hereby makes report of it to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

In line 4 strike out the words "and survey" and insert the following: "and the Nooksack River in Whatcom County, State of Washington." And add in section as follows:

and 2. That the sum of \$2,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be and is hereby appropriated to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War and the approval of the Civil Engineers to carry out the act and purpose of this act.

It is on this bill discussed the following:

(1) The bill as amended therein covers the Nooksack River in the County of Snohomish in the State of Washington, and that the Nooksack River in Whatcom County in said State.

(2) That the land through which these rivers flow is very fertile and would be increased from their being subject to periodic flooding, and that the land is very valuable for agriculture and stock raising, and that the land is very valuable for agriculture and stock raising, and that the land is very valuable for agriculture and stock raising.

All the rivers mentioned are mountain streams that rise in local height and overflow the surrounding country rapidly, and the de-